



OEAA Update

Produced by the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA), for all who administer statewide assessments in Michigan.

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Changes to MEAP and MME

To simplify the administration of the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) and the Michigan Merit Exam (MME), and to enhance the validity of its assessments, the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability announces the following changes, effective Fall 2008 (Spring 2009 for MME).

1. All MEAP assessments will be shortened to allow ONE-DAY administration of each MEAP session, with Mathematics, ELA session 1, ELA session 2, and science or social studies each on a separate day. Students will be able to complete all MEAP testing within FOUR school days.
2. MEAP Reading will eliminate the "Response to Paired Reading Selections" essay, and will have more multiple-choice and/or short-answer items. This will enable the OEAA to measure higher-order reading comprehension without heavily incorporating writing performance in the reading performance scores. In addition, MEAP Reading will commission some passages from published authors. This will target passages toward specific Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCEs), and allow for the release of passages on the OEAA website.
3. MEAP Math will be shortened to ONE DAY by reducing the number of items per core GLCE from three to two.

NOTE: Mathematics items that assess future core GLCEs will count toward student, school, and district scores in the 2009-2010 school year.

4. MEAP Science will replace two of the four constructed response items in each grade with six multiple choice items. This will reduce the amount of time needed for the Science assessment.

5. MEAP Social Studies will eliminate the "Taking A Stand" civic persuasive writing (constructed response) items beginning with the Fall 2008 MEAP Grades 6 and 9 test cycle.

NOTE: OEAA Update #42 inadvertently indicated that the MEAP Social Studies "Taking A Stand" civic persuasive writing (constructed response) would be replaced with short answer items. The writing items will not be replaced with short answer or multiple choice items. There will NOT be a change in the Social Studies MDE K-8 Grade Level Content Expectation (GLCE) document. The Persuasive Writing standards and expectations are still expected to be taught, but will need to be assessed at the classroom level. The OEAA has worked with Social Studies educators to produce scoring guides to assist teachers in carrying out these assessment activities.

6. MME will eliminate the Social Studies "Taking A Stand" civic persuasive writing (constructed response) items beginning with the Spring 2009 test cycle. These essays were previously scored for both Social Studies and Persuasive Writing. These writing items will be moved to the Secondary Credit Assessment System (SCAS) where the activity can be more adequately implemented.

NOTE A: There will NOT be a change in the Social Studies MDE HSCE document. The Persuasive Writing standards and expectations are still expected to be taught, but will need to be assessed at the classroom level.

NOTE B: The Secondary Credit Assessment System (SCAS) allows for a greater amount of time than the Social Studies MME, and therefore provides for a more comprehensive assessment (approximately 100 items for an approximate two-hour test). SCAS assessments will be provided by the OEAA for use by districts and schools at their discretion for secondary credit purposes. If districts and schools choose to use SCAS assessments, the scoring will be conducted locally. Although the OEAA will provide a recommended "passing score," and scoring guides (sample papers and scoring rubrics) for any written portions, these are recommendations only. The OEAA is planning to produce one Social Studies SCAS per year, for each of the four required courses. The OEAA plans to first produce a US History and Geography SCAS, which we expect will be made available for schools and districts in late Spring 2009.

MEAP Mathematics - Fall 2008

Grade	Part 1 Recommended time	Part 2 Recommended time	Total Time
3 <i>Calculators prohibited</i>	45 minutes (29 items)	45 minutes (26 items)	90 minutes
4	45 minutes (37 items)	30 minutes (21 items)	75 minutes
5	55 minutes (46 items)	25 minutes (15 items)	80 minutes
6	35 minutes (21 items)	50 minutes (36 items)	85 minutes
7	50 minutes (36 items)	45 minutes (25 items)	95 minutes
8	25 minutes (12 items)	50 minutes (37 items)	75 minutes
NOTE: Grades 6 and 8 contain constructed-response items			

Biology SCAS test blueprint

The Biology SCAS is a 94-point test. Each multiple-choice item will count for one point. Each constructed-response item will count for up to three points. OEAA will provide scoring rubrics for the CR items.

Background:

The Biology High School Content Expectations include 57 essential Science Content Expectations (SCEs) and 62 core SCEs. These 119 SCEs are grouped into five curriculum standards:

- B1. Inquiry, Reflection, and Social Implications
- B2. Organization and Development of Living Systems
- B3. Interdependence of Living Systems and the Environment
- B4. Genetics
- B5. Evolution and Biodiversity

The number of SCEs varies across the standards.

All Michigan high school students must complete one credit of Biology. The Biology credit is awarded for instruction and course work that incorporates the 57 essential and 62 core SCEs. Further, all Michigan students are expected to demonstrate proficiency in high school science, which includes the essential Biology SCEs (as well as the essential Chemistry, Earth Science, and Physics SCEs).

The Michigan Merit Examination (MME), in part, measures student performance on the essential Biology SCEs. Further, the ACT component of the MME assesses some of the essential SCEs within the Inquiry, Reflection, and Social Implication standard, which could use a Biology theme.

Since all high school students take the MME, the Biology SCAS will include one test item for each SCE selected using a 50% random sample ($n=28$) of the Biology essential SCEs taken across all five standards. These 28 items will all be multiple-choice (MC).

The Biology SCAS test will include one test item for each of the 62 core SCEs across the five Biology standards. These 62 items include 60 MC and two constructed-response (CR) items. Each CR item will align to a unique core SCE from the Inquiry, Reflection, and Social Implications standard.

The OEAA expects to post the Biology SCAS onto OEAA's Secure website by May 8. The OEAA will have then posted four SCAS tests, Algebra, Biology, English 10, and Geometry on the OEAA Secure website. School district may gain access to these tests through their MEAP Coordinator.

If you have questions, please contact Rodger Epp, MDE Science Assessment Consultant, at EppR@michigan.gov.

Change to Elementary and Middle School MEAP Science Test

The OEAA has modified the blueprints for both the elementary and middle school MEAP science tests. Both the Fall 2008 and 2009 science tests will reflect these blueprint changes. These changes should reduce the time needed by students to take the test and the administrative cost of the tests. Further, these changes will increase the number of benchmarks assessed.

Both tests will remain aligned to the Michigan Science Content Expectations (Summer 2000) for the Fall 2008 and 2009 test cycles.

Elementary School Science MEAP - The operational test will have a total of 47 items; 45 multiple-choice (MC) items and two constructed-response (CR) items. This change is an increase of six MC items and a decrease of two CR items from the Fall 2007 test. The test will also include eight field-test items; seven MC items and one CR item. Only the 47 operational test items will be used to measure student performance in science. The test will have 51 points, one point for each MC item, and up to three points for each CR item. The test point total has not changed from prior years.

Middle School Science MEAP - The operational test will have a total of 54 items; 52 multiple-choice (MC) items and two constructed-response (CR) items. This change is an increase of six MC items and a decrease of two CR items from the Fall 2007 test. The test will also include eight field-test items; seven MC items and one CR item. Only the 54 operational test items will be used to measure student performance in science. The test will have 58 points, one point for each MC item, and up to three points for each CR item. The test point total has not changed from prior years.

The OEAA will begin to assess Michigan's new K-7 science curriculum in Fall 2010.

If you have questions, please contact Rodger Epp, MDE Science Assessment Consultant, at EppR@michigan.gov.

Graduation Rates - Class of 2007

The Graduation/Dropout Review and Comment Application (GAD) is open, providing districts with an opportunity to ensure the data they submitted to the state is correct and to make requests for minimal changes if necessary. These data are used to calculate graduation rates used for reporting Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). *The GAD is the appeal process for graduation rates. There will be no additional appeal through the AYP website. This will be your only opportunity to ensure your data are correct.*

Timeline:

April 1 - Application Opens; districts may begin requesting adjustments; change approvers may begin processing requests

April 21 - Last day to submit linking requests in the application

May 2 - Last day to submit adjustment requests

May 5-30 - Estimated graduation rates are available for viewing in the application; adjustment requests continue to be processed

May 30 - Last day to process adjustment requests

June - Final district and building rates are calculated

The GAD is a cooperative effort of the Michigan Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) and the Michigan Department of Education. If you have questions regarding the GAD, please email cepi@michigan.gov or call 517-335-0505.

OEAA Annual Conferences

In response to numerous requests that OEAA Annual Conferences be held before fall assessments begin, the office is pleased to announce the following schedule:

August 21 - Marquette
August 26 - Sterling Heights
September 16 - Grand Rapids
September 18 - Lansing

September 22 - Bay City
September 25 - Livonia
October 2 - Gaylord

The conferences focus on accountability issues and the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP), Michigan Merit Exam (MME), English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA), MI-Access, and secondary credit assessments. These conferences are geared toward assessment and curriculum coordinators, school administrators, and teachers.

Registration will be available online in May at www.gomiem.org. For more information, please contact Tami Feldpausch at 517-241-4136 or at FeldpauschT@mi.gov.

English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA)

Harcourt is now Pearson! In past administrations of the Spring ELPA, OEAA referred to the testing company as "Harcourt." In February 2008, Harcourt became Pearson. In order to distinguish between the MEAP and ELPA, offices of Pearson that distribute and score the ELPA will be referred to as "Pearson-San Antonio." Please ensure that excess MEAP labels are not accidentally applied to boxes that have ELPA materials for return.

ELPA Pilot Cycle Return - If your district has registered for the ELPA Pilot Cycle, your testing window will close very soon. OEAA recommends that school districts participating in the Pilot Cycle, collect, assemble and package materials for return sometime during the week of April 14. Your materials are due for return on or before April 18. Follow all instructions for packaging materials shown in the Directions for Administration manual. If you have questions or concerns about your method of return to Pearson-San Antonio, please contact Pearson Customer Support at 800-763-2306.

Listening CDs - If you are ordering Listening CDs for the ELPA, be advised that there may be an additional small delay in filling orders. A printing error was found that applied to a small number of CDs. As a result, Pearson-San Antonio is now checking Listening CDs in their inventory in order to correct any misprinted labels. For Listening CDs you currently have in stock at your district, please make sure that the form number for the Assessment Level shown on the label matches what is heard on the recording. If you find an error, please alert Pearson-San Antonio immediately through their Customer Support at 800-763-2306.

Need to Update Your Email Address?

The OEAA relies heavily on email to communicate with schools. It's easy, economical and delivers important information to you within minutes. It is VERY important that email lists are updated and maintained on a regular basis so you can stay up-to-date on what is happening with statewide assessment programs. Please help spread the word in your district!

How to update an email address:

Superintendents and Principals – OEAA retrieves email addresses of superintendents and principals from the School Code Master (SCM), maintained by the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI). Each district has a CEPI User who is authorized to make change to the record, including the email addresses of superintendents and principals. If you have questions about who in your district is authorized to make such changes, please call CEPI at 517-335-0505.

District Testing Coordinators - Email addresses of district testing coordinators are retrieved from the Profile area of the OEAA Secure Site (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) under the "Material Order and Shipment Tracking" link. District coordinators are authorized to enter email addresses here.

MME Test Supervisor, Back-Up Supervisor, Test Accommodations Coordinator - To update an email address of an MME test supervisor, back-up supervisor or test accommodations coordinator, contact ACT at 800-553-6244.

ELPA, MEAP, MI-Access, Michigan Merit Exam (MME), MME Auxiliary Test Centers - OEAA also maintains email lists called ListServes. A ListServ contains email addresses of people interested in ELPA, MEAP, MI-Access, Michigan Merit Exam (MME), or MME Auxiliary Test Centers. Anyone--- even the public--- can subscribe to one or more of these ListServes. Just visit www.michigan.gov/oeaa and click on the appropriate program to find instructions on how to join a listserv.

How to Contact Us

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Michigan Promise scholarship
(administered exclusively by the Michigan
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